

Department of Justice
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
CONTROL SHEET

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 02/16/2017
DATE RECEIVED: 02/16/2017

WORKFLOW ID: 3787020
DUE DATE: 3/6/2017

FROM: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein*
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

TO: AG & FBI

MAIL TYPE: Congressional Priority

SUBJECT: (Rec'd from OLA via email) Requesting that DOJ and the FBI take the necessary steps to ensure the preservation of all materials related to contacts between Trump Organization, Trump campaign, Trump transition team or Trump Administration and the Russian government officials or associates and materials related to Russia's efforts to interfere with the 2016 election. Urging DOJ and the FBI to investigate these matters. Letter signed by 8 other MCs. See related corres in ES.

DATE ASSIGNED
02/17/2017

ACTION COMPONENT & ACTION REQUESTED
FBI
Prepare response for AAG/OLA signature.

INFO COMPONENT: OAG, OAG ODAG, OLA

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COMMENTS: 02/17/2017: Per OLA, assign to FBI.
ExecSec date/time stamp: 02/16/2017 3:25PM

FILE CODE:

EXECSEC POC:

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

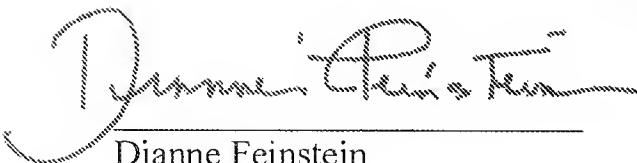
Dear Attorney General Sessions and Director Comey:

We are writing to ask that you confirm that the Justice Department and FBI have taken all necessary steps to ensure the preservation of all materials related to contacts between the Trump Organization, Trump campaign, Trump transition team, or Trump administration, or others acting on their behalf, and Russian government officials or associates, including all materials related to Russia's efforts to interfere with the 2016 election, communications or contacts with Russian officials or associates since the election, and any investigations into these matters.

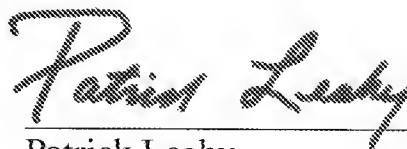
Please immediately provide us with all orders, notices or guidance regarding preservation of information related to these matters and investigations.

We look forward to your prompt attention and response to our request.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



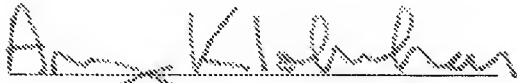
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



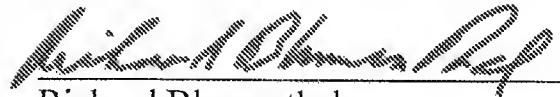
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

cc: Charles E. Grassley, Chairman

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:33:52 AM

To: DOJExecSec (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI)

CC: [redacted] (JMD); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (DO) (FBI); [redacted] (OLA)

Subject: FW: Preservation Letter to DOJ and FBI

Pls log the attached & assign to FBI. Thanks.

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:22 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: FW: Preservation Letter to DOJ and FBI

[redacted] please log in. Thanks. [redacted]

From: Sawyer, Heather (Judiciary-Dem); [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 10:58 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: Park, Chan (Judiciary-Dem); [redacted]

Subject: Preservation Letter to DOJ and FBI

[redacted]

Attached is a letter from Ranking Member Feinstein and the Democratic Members of the Committee. Please confirm receipt, and contact me [redacted] or Chan [redacted] with any questions and for follow-up.

My direct line is [redacted] and Chan is [redacted]

Thanks –

Heather

Heather Sawyer

Chief Oversight Counsel

Senate Judiciary Committee

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member

[redacted]

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2017

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Comey:

We are writing you in regards to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' representations to the Senate Judiciary Committee, both at his confirmation hearing and subsequent to it.

In a written question after the hearing, Senator Leahy asked him:

Several of the President-Elect's nominees or senior advisers have Russian ties. Have you been in contact with anyone connected to any part of the Russian government about the 2016 election, either before or after election day?

Under oath, Attorney General Sessions responded with an unequivocal "No," and provided no further explanation.

During his confirmation hearing on January 10, 2017, Senator Franken also asked him, "if there is any evidence that anyone affiliated with the Trump campaign communicated with the Russian government in the course of this campaign, what will you do?" Rather than respond to the question asked, he instead testified that "[he has] been called a surrogate a time or two in that campaign and [he] did not have communications with the Russians."

On March 1, 2017, the Washington Post reported that Attorney General Sessions had at least two meetings with the Russian ambassador during the 2016 elections.¹ According to the report, then-Senator Sessions had a private meeting in

¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sessions-spoke-twice-with-russian-ambassador-during-trumps-presidential-campaign-justice-officials-say/2017/03/01/77205eda-feac-11e6-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html

his personal office with the Russian ambassador on September 8, 2016, and they also had a conversation following an event at the Republican National Convention in July 2016. Following this revelation, the Attorney General issued a statement that claimed he “never met with any Russian officials to discuss issues of the campaign. I have no idea what this allegation is about. It is false.”

The Attorney General then confirmed he had met with the Russian ambassador on these two occasions during a press conference on March 2, 2017, during which he said the September meeting took place “in campaign season, but [he did not] recall any political conversations.”² He also claimed that he “[did not] remember a lot of [the conversation].” The Attorney General later confirmed both meetings in a letter to the Judiciary Committee on March 6, 2017.

Given his own admissions regarding contacts with the Russian ambassador, including at the Republican National Convention, and particularly in light of his description of his lack of recollection of what was said during the conversations, Attorney General Sessions’ written testimony to Senator Leahy appears to be discernably false. His testimony to Senator Franken also appears to be unequivocally false.

We are concerned by Attorney General Sessions’ lack of candor to the Committee and his failure thus far to accept responsibility for testimony that could be construed as perjury. We are also disturbed that the Attorney General has not been forthcoming about his contacts with the Russian ambassador since he was forced to disclose the two meetings following press reports. The press has now reported that there was a third undisclosed instance in which the Attorney General may have had contact with the Russian ambassador during the 2016 elections, which occurred at a small, private campaign event in April 2016 with then-candidate Trump in attendance.³

In light of Attorney General Sessions’ failure to provide truthful and complete responses to the Judiciary Committee – in his sworn testimony, in his explanation for his false statements, and in his subsequent March 6 letter purporting to provide “supplemental” testimony – we ask that you investigate all contacts the Russian ambassador, or any other Russian officials, may have had with Attorney General

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/03/02/transcript-of-jeff-sessions-recusal-press-conference-annotated/?utm_term=.96a4d24c5af2

³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/jeff-sessions-sergey-kislyak-mayflower_us_58c05639e4b0d1078ca37225?section=politics

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.

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March 20, 2017

Sessions or with his staff, and whether any laws were broken in the course of those contacts or in any subsequent discussion of whether they occurred. We also request that you brief us on the results of that investigation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick Leahy".

PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Al Franken".

AL FRANKEN
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 28, 2017

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Comey:

On March 20, 2017, we wrote you regarding Attorney General Sessions' false testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning his multiple contacts with Russian officials during the presidential campaign, including reports of an undisclosed meeting with the Russian ambassador at a small, private campaign event in April 2016. Since our letter, new and troubling details regarding Russian interference in the 2016 election have continued to emerge, including additional revelations of contacts between senior Trump campaign officials and Russian officials.

Our previous letter to you requested that you investigate all contacts the Attorney General or his staff may have had with the Russian ambassador, or any other Russian officials, and whether any laws were broken in the course of those contacts or in any subsequent discussion of whether they occurred.

We ask that you update us on the status of this investigation and brief us on this matter by Friday, May 12, 2017.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



AL FRANKEN
United States Senator